

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 084791
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 L-03 /022 R

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NEA/ARN:L POPE
NEA/ARP:J ZIOLKOWSKI
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-----080165 021012Z /21

R 012359Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS STATE 084791

ABU DHABI ALSO PASS DUBAI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND

SUBJECT: IMPENDING VISIT OF MPEAA OFFICIALS TO MIDDLE EAST
TO DISCUSS PIRACY OF U.S. FIRMS

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY THE MOTION PICTURE
EXPORT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MPEAA) THAT AN EXTREMELY
SERIOUS PROBLEM OF PIRACY OF U.S. FILMS HAS BEEN DEVELOPING
IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ESPECIALLY IN THE PERSIAN GULF AREA.
COPIES OF THE FILMS ARE OBTAINED THROUGH THE USE OF VIDEO
CASSETTE RECORDERS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO TAPE MOTION PICTURE
AND TELEVISION PROGRAMS DIRECTLY OFF THE AIR. THERE IS SUB-
STANTIAL EVIDENCE OF A LARGE ILLEGAL FLOW OF FEATURE FILMS
AND TV SERIES WHICH ARE SERVING CLOSED CIRCUIT SET-UPS IN
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HOTELS, INSTITUTIONS, INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, ETC., AS
WELL AS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE
ACQUIRED VIDEO EQUIPMENT. THE PIRACY PROBLEM HAS ALSO
SPREAD TO 16MM OUTLETS AND EVEN 35MM THEATERS. THE PRIMARY
ATTRACTION OF THE PIRATED FILMS IS THEIR NEWNESS. A CURRENT
MOTION PICTURE MAY BE OBTAINED MUCH QUICKER IF IT IS PIRATED
THAN IF IT IS PURCHASED THROUGH A CONVENTIONAL CONTRACT WITH

A DISTRIBUTOR.

2. NORMALLY THE MPEAA WOULD DEAL WITH THIS TYPE OF PROBLEM THROUGH LEGAL PROCEDURES. HOWEVER, IN THIS CASE SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE SINCE THERE IS NO COPYRIGHT PROTECTION FOR FOREIGN WORKS IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION. A FURTHER DIFFICULTY IS THAT NEITHER THE ASSOCIATION NOR ANY OF ITS MEMBER COMPANIES HAVE OFFICES IN THE AREA OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT. THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE FBI AND THE CUSTOMS BUREAU, CONSIDERABLE SEIZURES OF MATERIALS DESTINED FOR THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE BEEN MADE, BUT THIS BY ITSELF WILL NOT SUFFICE. THE MPEAA FEELS THAT THE DEGREE OF PIRACY IS ERODING THE COMMERCIAL MARKET FOR U.S. FILMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND FOR THIS REASON, THE ASSOCIATION HAS REQUESTED THE COOPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

3. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION AS IT IS NOW, AND TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE STEPS WHICH MIGHT BE TAKEN IN THE FUTURE, THE ASSOCIATION IS SENDING A SMALL DELEGATION TO THE AREA IN APRIL. THE MEMBERS OF THIS DELEGATION WILL BE: PAUL PEQUIGNOT, HEAD OF THE MPEAA CONTINENTAL FILM SECURITY OFFICE, (AND FORMER CHIEF INSPECTOR OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL POLICE), KAMAL KAWAR, THE MIDDLE EAST SUPERVISOR OF THE CINEMA INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION, (THE JOINTLY OWNED FOREIGN DISTRIBUTION ARM OF PARAMOUNT AND UNIVERSAL), AND JOHN DALY OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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KINEMATOGRAPHIC RENTERS SOCIETY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. THE DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY MARC M. SPIEGEL, VICE PRESIDENT OF MPEAA.

4. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE ADDRESSEE POSTS OF THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF MR. SPIEGAL AND HIS COLLEAGUES. THE MPEAA DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF PIRACY OF U.S. FILMS WITH EMBASSY/MISSION OFFICIALS AND TO OBTAIN ANY ADVICE REGARDING THE MOST APPROPRIATE COURSE FOR MPEAA TO FOLLOW IN DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DELEGATION IS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING THE EMBASSY/MISSION SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS WITH GOVERNMENT OR NONGOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE SCHEDULE WHICH THE DELEGATION WILL FOLLOW IS:

- APRIL 10-11 IN BEIRUT;
- APRIL 12-13 IN ABU DHABI;
- APRIL 14-17 IN DUBAI;
- APRIL 18-19 IN KUWAIT.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED THE DELEGATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN BEIRUT. HOWEVER, MPEAA CONSIDERS THE VISIT

TO LEBANON TO BE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE IN THEIR FACT-
FINDING MISSION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, VISITS, BUSINESS FIRMS, MOTION PICTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE084791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: L MC ARTHUR:BT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780143-0164
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804102/aaaadiqt.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e5835a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2821974
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPENDING VISIT OF MPEAA OFFICIALS TO MIDDLE EAST TO DISCUSS PIRACY OF U.S. FIRMS
TAGS: EIND, US, TC, MPEAA
To: ABU DHABI BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e5835a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014